Ocean Clue Hunt

Use nearby words to unlock new vocabulary.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.L.4.4a "Use context (e.g., definitions, examples, or restatements in text) as a clue to the meaning of a word or phrase."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each of these four words in the passage: current, nursery, predators, and camouflage. Circle the words nearby that explain what each word means.

A Turtle's First Journey

1. At night, a sea turtle hatchling may emerge, or come out, from its sandy nest. It uses its flippers to crawl toward the brighter horizon over the ocean. Lights from houses can confuse hatchlings, making them crawl inland instead. Scientists ask people near beaches to dim outdoor lights during nesting season. This helps hatchlings follow natural light from the sky and water.

2. Once in the water, a hatchling enters a current, a moving stream of ocean water. Currents can carry young turtles far from shore to areas with floating seaweed. The seaweed forms a nursery, a sheltered place where young animals can find food and cover. Tiny turtles may rest among the seaweed and eat small creatures there.

3. Hatchlings face many predators, animals that hunt other animals for food, such as birds, fish, and crabs. Their dark upper shells provide camouflage, coloring that helps an animal blend into its surroundings. A turtle floating near dark seaweed is harder for a fish to spot. After many years, surviving turtles may return to coastal waters as adults.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What does current mean in the second paragraph? Which words help you know?

2. What does nursery mean in the second paragraph?

3. What does predators mean? Use both the definition and the examples in the passage.

4. What does camouflage mean? Write the clue from the passage that helped you.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write two sentences about a real place or animal. Use one challenging word, then add a definition, example, or restatement that helps a reader figure out the word's meaning.

ANSWER KEY

Ocean Clue Hunt

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline each of these four words in the passage: current, nursery, predators, and camouflage. Circle the words nearby that explain what each word means. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What does current mean in the second paragraph? Which words help you know?	**A current is a moving stream of ocean water. The words "a moving stream of ocean water" explain it.**
2	What does nursery mean in the second paragraph?	**A nursery is a sheltered place where young animals can find food and cover.**
3	What does predators mean? Use both the definition and the examples in the passage.	**Predators are animals that hunt other animals for food, such as birds, fish, and crabs.**
4	What does camouflage mean? Write the clue from the passage that helped you.	**Camouflage is coloring that helps an animal blend into its surroundings. The turtle near dark seaweed being harder for a fish to spot is another clue.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

The desert was arid, meaning very dry. The dry ground had cracks because it had little rain.

Accept accurate paraphrases of each word's meaning when students use nearby definitions, examples, or restatements as evidence. For Part 3, accept any two-sentence response with a challenging word and a clear context clue that explains it.